

METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR
DYNAMICALLY SWITCHING BETWEEN
POLLING AND INTERRUPT TO HANDLE
NETWORK TRAFFIC

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Methods and apparatus for processing packets in a computer system including an operating system and a network interface card are disclosed. The 15 network interface card is configured to operate in either a polling mode or an interrupt mode. When the network interface card is in the polling mode, the network interface card is periodically polled to determine whether one or more packets have been received. When the network interface card is in the interrupt mode, the operating system is capable of receiving an interrupt from the network interface card, the interrupt indicating that the network interface card has received one or more packets. The operating system is capable of instructing the network interface card to change its mode from the polling mode to the interrupt mode (e.g., when packets are being received infrequently by the network interface card), and from the interrupt mode to the polling mode (e.g., when packets are received more frequently by the network interface card). Packets that are received may then be processed by the operating system.